

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1908,

PRESENTED TO THE

CLAYPOLE

Rural District Council

BY

PERCY SHARP,

L.R.C.P. & L.S.A., (London); M.R.C.S., (England).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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NEWARK:

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1909.



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TO THE
Rural District Council of Claypole.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Claypole Rural District for the year 1908.

Your District is composed of Twenty-six widely scattered villages and hamlets, the largest not having a thousand inhabitants, and the smallest less than a score.

Practically the only occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture, together with the minor industries incidental thereto. There are no manufactures or industries that would be injurious to the public health.

The house accommodation as regards the working classes is fairly satisfactory, many of the cottages are very small, deficient in ventilation, and have no fire-places in the bedrooms, a want which is in times of sickness badly felt.

There is generally a sufficiency of open space about the houses, though in some cases they are closer together than they should be, but being old this is not to be wondered at.

The cleanliness of the surroundings is very variable, depending to a great extent on that of the tenants for the time being.

Very few new houses are ever built, but where they are, plans of any proposed drains have to be submitted.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

There is no Public Water Supply in the District, except in the village of Fulbeck, which latter is of exceptionally good quality. For the rest reliance is placed upon wells, many without pumps mostly private, and in all sorts of situations. Most of the water in the wells is hard, in some parts the hardness being permanent, and in others temporary. There being no general supply, cases of insufficiency and pollution are dealt with as they arise, but in no case have I come across any contamination with lead, nor heard of any case of lead poisoning.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the past year Regulations have been adopted under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, and a register compiled of persons carrying on the trade of Cow-keepers, Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk. In consequence of this your Inspector and I have visited and inspected the premises of all those applying for registration, and of others where we had information as to the sale of Milk. Most of the numerous premises we visited were in need of greater cleanliness, many required better ventilation and lighting, while in some cases we found make-shift hovels in use quite unsuited to the purpose. Some Milk is exported from the District, and the dairies whence milk is sent away are for the most part satisfactory. Two Dairy Companies send out Sterilized Milk. The cleanliness and purity of the Milk supply in the District is most important, especially as milk is so largely consumed uncooked, and forms, or should form a considerable portion

of the diet of children. Moreover, milk from its very nature may, and often does become the means of conveying infectious diseases from one person to another. Unfortunately the difficulty of defining what constitutes the sale in small quantities to workmen, or neighbours, for their accommodation, whereby such sellers are exempt from registration, threatens to render the Order almost a dead letter in many cases.

There have been no cases calling for the special inspection of other foods, and no unsound food or meat has been condemned.

Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses are inspected from time to time, and where cleansing and lime-washing is required instructions are given to this effect.

The sewerage of the different villages is for the most part conveyed by covered sewers which terminate in open sewer-dykes, well away from houses and buildings, the effluent from which passes into the land or empties into streams. The condition of these sewers has been very much improved during the last two years, many of them were in a deplorable state, being roughly laid in brick or stone, these have in many cases been taken up and relaid in Sanitary Pipes. New Sewers have been laid at Bassingham, Swinderby (3), Allington, Barkston, Syston (alterations), Caythorpe (2), Brant Broughton, Fulbeck, Marston, Beckingham, Bennington, and Claypole. At Claypole the Sewage is conveyed to tanks, which are cleansed periodically by your Authority.

There is only one River of importance—the Witham—in your District. This river enters the District at Barkston, and pursuing a winding course, leaves it at Thurlby. In the District it is fed by the Brant, the Beck, and numerous small land dykes. It receives the effluent of a Sewage Farm at Marston, but no specific evidence of pollution has been brought to my notice.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The privy-midden system is almost universal, the vaults generally being below ground, and frequently not cemented. The contents are disposed upon farm and garden lands from time to time. The pail system is generally advocated, and has been adopted in several instances.

House refuse is removed and disposed of by the occupiers' as and when they think fit, there is no public scavenger, and no means of getting rid of such refuse, except on the land, consequently refuse and ash heaps are often allowed to accumulate in the vicinity of cottages, in such a manner as to become a nuisance, and are not unlikely to be dangerous to health, especially as they become breeding grounds for house flies. In the case of nuisances brought to our notice, or found upon inspection, which frequently occurs, your Sanitary Inspector writes to the owner of the property, drawing his attention to the matter, and asking for the abatement of the nuisance, failing compliance with such request proceedings are taken under section 91 of the Public Health Act.

There are no Bye-laws respecting houses let in lodgings or offensive trades. Few, if any, such exist.

The Sanitary condition of the Public Elementary Schools is on the whole satisfactory. They have, however, no water supply, except such as may be provided for the Schoolmaster's house, which is frequently near, or even part of the same building. I am informed that the school authorities have recently received orders to disinfect the floors of the Schools daily, and I know of one School where this has been carried out for some time past. In the event of infectious illness among the scholars, if of a dangerous character, or affecting a large percentage of the children, I advise that the school be closed for such period as may be necessary, and in order to prevent, if possible, any recurrence of the disease, I have the school specially cleansed and disinfected prior to re-opening. This course was adopted in the case of four schools during the past year, as under:—

SCHOOLS CLOSED, 1908.

VILLAGE.	CAUSE,	TIME.
	Epidemic—	
Claypole	Sore Throat ...	14 days.
Stubton	Influenza.....	7 days.
Claypole	Influenza...	14 days.
Syston.....	Scarlet Fever ...	21 days.

There is no Isolation Hospital accommodation of any kind in the district, consequently the isolation of cases of infectious disease is difficult, if not impossible where such cases occur in small and perhaps crowded homes. It not infrequently happens also that children in an infectious condition are allowed to play with others, and so cause infectious illness to spread.

On receipt of notification of infectious illness, disinfectants are at once supplied if required, and isolation notices issued. As soon as possible the premises are visited and inspected with a view to ascertain their sanitary condition, and an endeavour is made to ascertain the cause of the illness, and such means taken to prevent its spread as may be possible. In the case of the patient being of school age, I generally write to the Schoolmaster on receipt of the first notification, warning him to be on the look out for further suspicious cases among his scholars, so that any such may be immediately excluded. On the conclusion of infectious illness, the premises occupied are disinfected by your Sanitary Inspector.

There is no system of notification of pulmonary tuberculosis in operation in your district, and it is very desirable that this disease should be added to the Schedule of notifiable diseases, so that some measures could be taken to prevent its spread. There is no Hospital accommodation for such cases, and they, like other cases of infectious disease, have to be treated in their own homes. In this case, however, there is no disinfection on the conclusion of the illness, as, of course, there would be if they were known about.

The details with regard to the incidence of infectious disease in your district during the past year are shown on Table III. It will be seen that there were 11 cases of Diphtheria, 7 in the Bassingham, and 4 in the Claypole Registration District. These 11 cases occurred in 7 houses, so that it is probable that some of them at least could have been prevented if isolation could have been properly carried out at an early stage.

None of the above cases were fatal ; possibly this may be partly due to the increasing use of Antitoxin which your Authority now provides in cases where it may be necessary.

There were 8 cases of Erysipelas, mostly in the Collingham Registration District. These were nearly all persons over 60 years of age ; one died, but the death was attributed to other causes.

More than half the notifications received relate to Scarlet Fever, there being 29 cases, only one of which—an adult-died. Nineteen of these cases occurred in Syston and Barkston, adjoining villages, where the disease became epidemic. Infection was I believe imported here, and spread through the agency of the School at Syston, which had to be closed in consequence, and was twice disinfected ; half the remaining cases were in Fulbeck, where Scarlet Fever had been epidemic the previous Autumn. Two cases of Enteric Fever were imported into the district, but the disease did not spread. Of non-notifiable infectious diseases—Measles, probably the most important as affecting children, was conspicuous by its absence ; this is

possibly accounted for at any rate in some villages by its prevalence the year before. There were no deaths from this cause. There were two deaths from Whooping Cough ; Influenza also accounted for two.

There were seven deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the same number as last year, while other Tuberculous Diseases are responsible for three more.

I am very glad to be able to record that the Infant Mortality during the past year has been the lowest of any year, the statistics of which are available ; only seven infants under one year died, being at the rate of 43.75 per 1000 births registered, which is considerably less than half the average for the last ten years. It will be remembered that your Council permitted me to have some cards of advice on the rearing of infants printed ; one of these is, by the courtesy of the Registrars, given to each person registering the birth of an infant. They have, I believe, been much appreciated, and will I hope exert a beneficial influence.

The birth rate shows a slight increase over the past two years, but is still below the average. The notification of Births' Act has not been adopted by your Authority.

Table I. shows the Vital Statistics of the District for the past year, and also for the previous ten years with the averages. I am of opinion that when compiling these returns for 1905, 6, and 7, which I did last year, I considerably over-estimated the population for those years. In the light of further information on the subject, I have

reduced my estimate for this year, to what I think a more correct figure. The general death rate will be seen to be lower than usual, as well as the infant death rate, but of course the fall is not so marked in the former. There were in all 108 deaths of persons belonging to the district, this being at the rate of 13.68 per 1000.

Table II. is merely an amplification of Table I., and of course the remarks with regard to the population estimates apply to this Table as well. The Workhouse in the Claypole Sub-District is now closed.

Table IV. shows the causes of, and ages at death throughout the District, and in the Registration Districts. The cases of death from infectious disease, and the deaths of infants under one year have already been alluded to. For the rest it will be seen that Cancer accounts for 14 ; Heart disease is the commonest cause of death—20 cases ; while old age is the cause in nearly as many—19 cases ; 18 of these being over 80 years of age, and 3 over 90.

Table V. gives the particulars respecting Infantile Mortality, and it will be seen that there was only one death from infectious illness, viz :—Whooping Cough. There were 8 births of illegitimate infants, 6 of these occurring in the Claypole Registration District. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There has hitherto been no Report on the Administration of this Act in the District, and up to now no register has been kept, there being no Factories in the

ordinary meaning of the term, and only small village workshops, such as Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, Bakers, &c. I now find however, that there are two or three places classed as Factories under the Act, and a number of workshops and Bakehouses, which have to be registered. A register is therefore being compiled, and I append a summary of the inspections which have been made of such premises.

There are no underground Bake-houses, the condition of bake-houses generally is satisfactory, two however were found dirty, and were ordered to be cleansed.

During the past year I have made a systematic inspection of some parts of your district, accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector, who reported to you in detail the result of such inspections.

By the kindness of the Rev. Vere F. Willson, Fulbeck, and Joseph Brocklebank, Esq., Carlton-le-Moorland, I am able to include Tables showing the Rainfall during the past year, in two different parts of the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PERCY SHARP.

*Brant Broughton,
Newark-on-Trent,
January, 1909.*

Claypole Rural District Council.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

Nuisances reported to Council...	...	...	41
Cases not proceeded with	...	...	0
Nuisances abated	...	...	36
Nuisances Unabated at end of Year	...	...	5
Official Notices issued	...	...	2
Cases prosecuted by authority ...	...	...	0
Water Supply enforced	...	...	1
Wells cleaned out	...	...	3
New Sewers laid	...	...	4

I have inspected all Bakehouses, and Slaughter-houses in the District, and generally speaking their condition is satisfactory.

F. C. MEYRICK,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.
CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.	Deaths UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-registered Residents in District.	Deaths of registered Residents beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
				Number.	Rate.*				No.	Rate.*
1898	8570	197	22.98	23	122.82	173	20.35	11	7	166 19.36
1899	8542	198	23.17	26	131.12	138	16.15	9	7	131 15.33
1900	8522	169	19.33	22	130.17	148	17.38	7	6	142 16.66
1901	8142	179	21.98	21	117.31	138	16.93	7	5	138 16.33
1902	8141	167	20.51	15	89.82	110	13.51	5	4	106 13.02
1903	8141	179	22.04	21	116.62	119	14.77	4	2	113 13.88
1904	8141	183	22.47	25	136.66	121	14.86	2	..	121 14.86
1905	8220	181	22.01	17	93.92	127	15.45	9	6	122 14.72
1906	8246	142	17.22	11	77.46	114	13.82	1	..	114 13.82
1907	8180	156	19.07	19	121.79	119	14.54	2	2	117 14.30
Averages for years 1898-1907.		175.1	21.07	20.0	113.76	130.7	15.77	57	37	.. 126.5 15.22
1908	7890	160	20.27	7	43.75	101	12.8	2	1	8 108 13.68

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

At Census 1901 : Total Population at all ages, 8141. ; Number of Inhabited Houses, 1993 ;
Average number of persons per house, 4.08. Area of District in acres (without water) 58, 260.

TABLE II.
CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

TABLE III.
CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						Total Cases Notified in Each Locality.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	
							65 and upwards.
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	11	...	3	6	1	1	4
Erysipelas	8	...	4	19	5	3	1
Scarlet Fever	29	...	...	...	...	5	24
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	2
Relapsing Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	50	...	7	25	7	8	31

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.
CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH .	Deaths in Whole District at subjoined Ages.						Deaths of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Deaths in Public Institutions.	
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Collingham Sub-District.	Balderton Sub-District.	Bassingham Sub-District.	Claypole Sub-District.	
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Epidemic Influenza.	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
Diarrhoea	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Phthisis	7	...	...	...	1	5	1	...	4	3	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	14	...	...	...	...	4	10	3	1	4	6	1
Bronchitis.....	9	1	...	...	...	2	6	...	1	2	6	...
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism }	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of parturition	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases.....	20	...	...	...	...	7	13	8	1	5	6	...
Accidents	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	...
Senile Decay	19	...	...	...	...	...	19	1	...	10	8	1
Apoplexy	8	...	...	...	...	1	7	2	...	1	5	...
Pernicious Anaemia	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Albuminuria.....	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	3	...
Convulsions	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Locomotor Ataxia...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
All other causes ..	6	1	...	...	...	3	2	...	1	1	4	...
All causes.....	108	7	4	2	1	29	65	15	7	31	55	2

TABLE V.
CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CLAYPOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Inspections.
Factories	2
(Including Factory Laundries)	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) and Workplaces (Excluding Outworkers' Premises)...	13
Total	15

DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>		
Want of cleanliness	2	2
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:</i>		
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	2	2
Total	4	4

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Register is being compiled.

PERCY SHARP,

January, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.

RAINFALL IN 1908.

At FULBECK PARSONAGE, in the County of Lincoln.

Height above Sea Level, 180 ft.

Month.	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of days with '01 or more recorded
		Inches.	Inches.	
January	·94	·16	6	15
February	1·85	·35	22	17
March.....	2·70	·62	25	23
April	2·25	·38	28	21
May	1·43	·61	6	14
June	1·09	·30	16	10
July	2·71	·72	14	12
August	2·22	·40	31	16
September	1·57	·57	3	14
October	·90	·31	16	14
November	1·30	·51	13	13
December	1·37			22
TOTAL.....	20·33			191

Average Rainfall for 10 years, 22·53 inches.

V. F. WILLSON.

RAINFALL IN 1908.

At *CARLTON-LE-MOORLAND, in the County of Lincoln.*

Month.	Inches.
January	·60
February	1·40
March	2·98
April	1·80
May	1·66
June	·95
July	2·37
August	1·93
September	2·00
October	·85
November	1·37
December	1·69
Total.....	19·60

JOS. BROCKLEBANK.

TEMPERATURE IN 1908.

Month.	Maximum.	Date.	Minimum.	Date.
January	54	27	16·8	6
February	51	6	25·8	29
March	57·8	8	22·7	15
April	59·5	30	27	24
May	77	27	37	23 and 24
June.....	82	3	36·8	6
July.....	84·9	2	43	8
August	80·5	3	40	12
September	80	30	39	13
October	79·2	3	29·5	25
November	56	1	28	10
December.....	51·5	21	13	30 and 31

V. F. WILLSON.